

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
- 2 a decoder to decode an activation message, the activation message being sent from
- 3 an activator via a communication medium in response to a telephony call, the decoder
- 4 generating an activation command; and
- 5 a transmitter coupled to the decoder to transmit an information message, to a
- 6 receiver using a communication protocol, the transmitter being responsive to the
- activation command.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the receiver is coupled to a server, the
- 2 server embedding the information message in network data to be sent over a network.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication protocol uses one of
- 2 a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic
- 3 signal.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the transmitting unit comprises a
- 2 modulator to modulate the information message according to a modulating scheme.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the modulating scheme is compatible
2 with a sound signal.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the modulating scheme uses a pseudo
2 random binary sound (PRBS).

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitter.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the location of the transmitter.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.

1 11. An apparatus comprising:
2 a decoder to decode an activation message, the activation message being sent from
3 an activator in response to a telephony call, the decoder generating an activation
4 command; and

5 a receiving unit coupled to the decoder to receive an information message
6 responsive to the activation command, the information message being sent from a
7 transmitter according to a communication protocol via a communication medium.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the receiving unit is coupled to a
2 server, the server embedding the information message in network data to be sent over a
3 network.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the communication protocol uses one
2 of a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic
3 signal.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the receiving unit comprises a
2 demodulator to demodulate the information message according to a demodulating
3 scheme.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the demodulating scheme is compatible
2 with a sound signal.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the demodulating scheme uses a
2 pseudo random binary sound (PRBS).

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitting unit.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the transmitter.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.

1 21. A network comprising a plurality of commonly coupled location
2 transmitters, each transmitter comprising a transmission unit to broadcast respective
3 location information.

1 22. The network of Claim 21, wherein the transmission unit of a transmitter
2 broadcasts the respective location information on a substantially periodic basis.

1 23. The network of Claim 21, wherein the transmission unit of a transmitter
2 broadcasts the respective location information on a substantially continuous basis.

1 24. The network of Claim 21, wherein the transmission unit of a transmitter
2 broadcasts the respective location information responsive to an activation request.

1 25. The network of Claim 24, wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 transmitters comprises
3 a reception unit coupled to the transmission unit of the at least one of the plurality
4 of transmitters, the reception unit to receive the activation request and to notify the
5 transmission unit of such receipt.

1 26. The network of Claim 21, wherein each transmitter further comprises a
2 reception unit coupled to the transmission unit to receive an activation request and to

3 notify the transmission unit of such receipt; and wherein the reception units of a set of the
4 transmitters to receive the activation request at substantially the same time.

1 27. The network of Claim 26, wherein the set of the transmitters comprises all
2 of the plurality of transmitters in the network.

1 28. The network of Claim 26, wherein the set of the transmitters comprises
2 less than all of the plurality of transmitters in the network.

1 29. The network of Claim 21, wherein the transmitters are geographically
2 dispersed to form a distributed location broadcast system.

1 30. The network of Claim 21, wherein the transmission unit of a transmitter
2 broadcasts respective broadcast information in a format consistent with at least one of an
3 identification tag, an absolute location, and a relative location.

1 31. The network of Claim 21, further comprising:
2 a network component capable of coupling to a first transmitter of the plurality of
3 transmitters to receive and process the respective location information broadcast by the
4 first transmitter.

1 32. The network of Claim 24, further comprising:
2 a server coupled to the plurality of transmitters to selectively issue the activation
3 request to the plurality of transmitters.

1 33. The network of Claim 24, further comprising:
2 a network component capable of sensing at least one of the plurality of
3 transmitters, the network component comprising:
4 a sensor capable of at least intermittent coupling to a first transmitter of
5 the plurality of transmitters to receive the respective location broadcast by the first
6 transmitter, a location determination unit coupled to the sensor to process the
7 received respective location information, and a network interface to externally
8 issue the respective location information in accordance with a packet data format.

1 34. The network of Claim 33, further comprising:
2 a server coupled to the plurality of transmitters to selectively issue the activation
3 request to the plurality of transmitters responsive to a location event; and
4 a packet network interposing the network interface of the network component and
5 the server, the packet network to bear the packetized, respective location information to
6 said server.

1 35. The network of Claim 34, wherein the location event is generated by the
2 network component.

1 36. The network of Claim 35, wherein the location event comprises an
2 emergency call.

1 37. The network of Claim 34, further comprising an e-commerce transaction
2 processor coupled to the packet network, wherein the location event is generated by the e-
3 commerce transaction processor.

1 38. A method of locating a networkable component, comprising:
2 receiving a location information request, the location information request
3 requiring a location information;
4 generating at least one data packet comprising the location information; and
5 transmitting the at least one data packet in response to the location information
6 request.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the data packet complies with Internet
2 Protocol.

1 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the receiving of the location information
2 is performed by a receiver.

1 41. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
2 storing the location information in a store for storing location information.

1 42. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
2 receiving the location information from a location information receiving device.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein the location information receiving
2 device is a Global Positioning System receiver.

1 44. The method of claim 38, wherein the location information is an absolute
2 reference to a location.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the absolute reference comprises
2 geographic coordinates.

1 46. The method of claim 44, wherein the absolute reference contains a
2 location address.

1 47. The method of claim 44, wherein the absolute reference comprises Global
2 Positioning System data.

1 48. The method of claim 38, wherein the location information comprises a
2 relative reference to a location.

1 49. The method of claim 38, wherein the location information comprises a
2 predetermined code associated with a location.

1 50. The method of claim 38, wherein the location information request is
2 generated in response to an emergency telephony call.

1 51. The method of claim 38, wherein the location information request
2 originates from a networkable component.

1 52. The method of claim 51, wherein the networkable component is an
2 emergency server.

1 53. The method of claim 51, wherein the networkable component comprises
2 an association with a commercial transaction.

1 54. A networkable component comprising:
2 a receiver for receiving location information in response to a telephony call;
3 a processor for processing location information; and
4 a network interface for transmitting the location information over a network.

1 55. The networkable component of claim 54 wherein the location information
2 is one of a pre-determined location information and a global positioning system (GPS)
3 information.

1 56. The networkable component of claim 55 wherein the telephony call is one
2 of an emergency call, a commercial transaction call, and an intrusive call.

1 57. A networkable component comprising:
2 means for receiving location information in response to a telephony call;
3 means for processing location information; and
4 interface means for transmitting the location information

58. The networkable component of claim 57 wherein the location information
is one of a pre-determined location information and a global positioning system (GPS)
information.

59. The networkable component of claim 58 wherein the telephony call is one
of an emergency call, a commercial transaction call, and an intrusive call.

60. A networkable component comprising:
a location sensor to provide location information;
a determination unit coupled to the sensor, the determination unit to determine the
location information; and
a network interface coupled to the determination unit to selectively transmit the
location information over a network.

1 61. A method comprising:
2 decoding an activation message to generate an activation command, the activation
3 message being sent from an activator via a communication medium in response to a
4 telephony call; and

5 transmitting an information message responsive to the activation command, by a
6 transmitting unit, to a receiver using a communication protocol.

1 62. The method of claim 61 further comprising embedding the information
2 message in network data to be sent over a network.

1 63. The method of claim 61 wherein the communication protocol uses one of
2 a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic
3 signal.

1 64. The method of claim 61 wherein transmitting comprises modulating the
2 information message according to a modulating scheme.

1 65. The method of claim 64 wherein the modulating scheme is compatible
2 with a sound signal.

1 66. The method of claim 64 wherein the modulating scheme uses a pseudo
2 random binary sound (PRBS).

1 67. The method of claim 61 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitting unit.

1 68. The method of claim 67 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 69. The method of claim 61 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the location of the transmitter.

1 70. The method of claim 69 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.

1 71. A method comprising:
2 decoding an activation message to generate an activation command, the activation
3 message being sent from an activator in response to a telephone call; and

4 receiving an information message responsive to the activation command, the
5 information message being sent from a transmitter according to a communication
6 protocol.

1 72. The method of claim 71 further comprises embedding the information
2 message in network data to be sent over a network.

3 73. The method of claim 72 wherein the communication protocol uses one of
4 a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic
5 signal.

1 74. The method of claim 73 wherein receiving comprises demodulating the
2 information message according to a demodulating scheme.

1 75. The method of claim 74 wherein the demodulating scheme is compatible
2 with a sound signal.

1 76. The method of claim 75 wherein the demodulating scheme uses a pseudo
2 random binary sound (PRBS).

1 77. The method of claim 71 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitter.

1 78. The method of claim 77 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 79. The method of claim 78 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the transmitter.

1 80. The method of claim 76 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.

1 81. A computer program product comprising:
2 a machine useable medium having computer program code embedded therein, the
3 computer program product having:
4 computer readable program code for decoding an activation message to generate
5 an activation command, the activation message being sent from an activator via a
6 communication medium in response to a telephony call; and

7 computer readable program code for transmitting an information message,
8 responsive to the activation command by a transmitting unit, to a receiver using a
9 communication protocol.

1 82. The computer program product of claim 81 further comprises computer
2 readable program code for embedding the information message in network data to be sent
3 over a network.

1 83. The computer program product of claim 82 wherein the communication
2 protocol uses one of a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and
3 an electromagnetic signal.

1 84. The computer program product of claim 83 wherein the computer readable
2 program code for transmitting comprises computer readable program code for modulating
3 the information message according to a modulating scheme.

1 85. The computer program product of claim 84 wherein the modulating
2 scheme is compatible with a sound signal.

1 86. The computer program product of claim 85 wherein the modulating
2 scheme uses a pseudo random binary sound (PRBS).

1 87. The computer program product of claim 81 wherein the information
2 message includes a location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitting unit.

1 88. The computer program product of claim 82 wherein the location identifier
2 includes global positioning system (GPS) information.

1 89. The computer program product of claim 88 wherein the telephony call is
2 made by a person located in proximity of the location of one of the decoder and the
3 transmitter.

1 90. The computer program product of claim 89 wherein the telephony call is
2 an emergency call using an emergency call number.

1 91. A computer program product comprising:
2 a machine useable medium having computer program code embedded therein, the
3 computer program product having:
4 computer readable program code for decoding an activation message to generate
5 an activation command, the activation message being sent from an activator in response
6 to a telephony call; and

7 computer readable program code for receiving an information message,
8 responsive to the activation command, the information message being sent from a
9 transmitter according to a communication protocol.

1 92. The computer program product of claim 91 further comprises computer
2 readable program code for embedding the information message in network data to be sent
3 over a network.

1 93. The computer program product of claim 92 wherein the communication
2 protocol uses one of a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and
3 an electromagnetic signal.

1 94. The computer program product of claim 93 wherein the computer readable
2 program code for receiving comprises demodulating the information message according
3 to a demodulating scheme.

1 95. The computer program product of claim 94 wherein the receiver is a tone
2 receiver compatible with the demodulating scheme.

1 96. The computer program product of claim 95 wherein the demodulating
2 scheme uses a pseudo random binary sound (PRBS).

1 97. The computer program product of claim 91 wherein the information
2 message includes a location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitter.

1 98. The computer program product of claim 97 wherein the location identifier
2 includes global positioning system (GPS) information.

1 99. The computer program product of claim 98 wherein the telephony call is
2 made by a person located in proximity of the location of the transmitting unit.

1 100. The computer program product of claim 99 wherein the telephony call is
2 an emergency call using an emergency call number.

1 101. A system comprising:
2 an activator to transmit an activation message in response to a telephony call; and
3 a transmitter to communicate with the activator via a communication medium, the
4 transmitter comprising:
5 a decoder to decode the activation message, the decoder generating an
6 activation command, and

7 a transmitting unit coupled to the decoder to transmit an information
8 message, responsive to the activation command, to a receiver using a
9 communication protocol.

1 102. The system of claim 101 wherein the receiver is coupled to a server, the
2 server embedding the information message in network data to be sent over a network.

1 103. The system of claim 102 wherein the communication protocol uses one of
2 a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic
3 signal.

1 104. The system of claim 103 wherein the transmitting unit comprises a
2 modulator to modulate the information message according to a modulating scheme.

1 105. The system of claim 104 wherein the modulating scheme is compatible
2 with a sound signal.

1 106. The system of claim 105 wherein the modulating scheme uses a pseudo
2 random binary sound (PRBS).

1 107. The system of claim 101 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitter.

1 108. The system of claim 107 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 109. The system of claim 108 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the location of one of the decoder and the transmitter.

1 110. The system of claim 109 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.

1 111. A system comprising:
2 an activator to transmit an activation message in response to a telephony call; and
3 a receiver coupled to the server, the receiver comprising:
4 a decoder to decode the activation message, the decoder generating an
5 activation command, and

a receiving unit coupled to the decoder to receive an information message responsive to the activation command, the information message being sent from a transmitter according to a communication protocol via a communication medium.

112. The system of claim 111 further comprises a server coupled to the receiver to embed the information message in network data to be sent over a network.

113. The system of claim 112 wherein the communication protocol uses one of a multi-frequency tone, an ultra-red signal, a microwave signal, and an electromagnetic signal.

114. The system of claim 113 wherein the receiver comprises a demodulator to demodulate the information message according to a demodulating scheme.

115. The system of claim 114 wherein the demodulating scheme is compatible with a sound signal.

116. The system of claim 115 wherein the demodulating scheme uses a pseudo random binary sound (PRBS).

1 117. The system of claim 111 wherein the information message includes a
2 location identifier corresponding to location of the transmitter.

1 118. The system of claim 117 wherein the location identifier includes global
2 positioning system (GPS) information.

1 119. The system of claim 118 wherein the telephony call is made by a person
2 located in proximity of the location of the transmitter.

1 120. The system of claim 119 wherein the telephony call is an emergency call
2 using an emergency call number.